Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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XMT AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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FOL RPT CARACAS 11030 SENT ACTION SECSTATE OCT 22 QTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EGEN VE

SUBJECT: SELA SECRETARIAT TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IMMEDIATELY

- 1. CARACAS PRESS ON OCTOBER 22 REPORTED PUBLIC STATEMENT BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE ON SELA. STATEMENT DESCRIBED THE RECENT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN PANAMA ESTABLISHING SELA, SUMMARIZED THE PANAMA AGREEMENTS ON SELA, AND REPORTED THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL, SELA'S SENIOR BODY, WILL MEET IN CARACAS IN JANUARY TO ANALYZE THE POSITION OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS EXPECTED IN 1976. FINANCE MINISTRY'S STATEMENT ALSO MENTIONED THAT SELA SECRETARIAT WILL BEGIN OPERATIONS IMMEDIATELY WHILE LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS RATIFY THE RESOLUTIONS APPROVED AT THE PANAMA MEETING.
- 2. SELA SECRETARY GENERAL JAIME MONCAYO GARCIA IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN CARACAS ON OCTOBER 23 TO BEGIN ORGANIZING THE SELA OFFICES. HIS SECRETARIAT WILL BE LOCATED TEMPORARILY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARQUE CENTRAL, AN OFFICE-APARTMENT COMPLEX IN THE CENTER OF

CARACAS, UNTIL A PERMANENT LOCATION IS FOUND IN THE CITY FOR SELA HEADQUARTERS.

3. COMMENT: ONE NOTABLE ASPECT OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY'S STATEMENT WAS THAT IT DID NOT RECEIVE FRONT PAGE TREATMENT IN THE LEADING CARACAS DAILIES. GENERALLY, THE VENEZUELAN PRESS HAS GIVEN LOW-KEY COVERAGE TO SELA DEVELOPMENTS AND TO THE FACT THAT SELA HEADQUARTERS WILL BE LOCATED IN CARACAS.LSHLAUDEMAN UNQTE INGERSOLL

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